

# Scout Trails

## Brownie Troop 2460

Brownie Troop 2460 recently graduated to a Girl Scout troop. The Flyup ceremony was held at the Torrance Recreation Park. The meeting was opened with a welcoming song followed by the flag salute which was presented by Cub Pack 732-C. Den 5. Bebe Coast then led the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Betty Bray, Troop Leader, welcomed

everyone to the ceremony. GIRL SCOUT laws were given by the group. The Co-leader, Mrs. Ruby Griffith, presented Brownie wings to the girls and Mrs. Bray distributed the Girl Scout pins. The girls were introduced by Cathy Kuhns. The leaders also awarded World Association pins. Members receiving wings and pins were: Sonja Barnes, Carol Boots, Kathy Bray, Peg-

gy Campbell, Rita Canary, Bebe Coast, Faye Coa, Sandra Decker, Joanne Dorsey, Darlene Fullerton, Glenda Griffith, Shirley Hanes, Debbie Jones, Cathy Kuhns, Cynthia Logan, Nelda Maxwell, Gloria Madrano and Susan Reeker. AFTER THE ceremonies, the troop served refreshments to the guests. Troop 2460 is

sponsored by the Torrance Elementary PTA.

Pre-Christmas activities of the Troop included making Christmas gifts for their parents, a Christmas party, and fixing a basket for a needy family which included turkey with all the trimmings. Christmas caroling was enjoyed in the evening on Dec. 22 after which refreshments were served in the home of Mrs. Clara Hanes.

Big event for the new year will be the Girl Scout Cooky Sale which starts in February and working toward Second Class Rank. New Co-leader elected for the year is Mrs. Christine Canary.

# Supervisors Seek Strong Dope Sentencing Law From Legislature

Under Supervisor Kenneth Hahn's leadership, the County Board of Supervisors this week unanimously voted approval of a strong, new anti-narcotics legislative program and instructed County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy to have it introduced at the 1961 State Legislature, now in session at Sacramento.

The new legislative program calls for tougher, more stringent penalties for convicted dope peddlers than the program formerly sponsored by the County which was used as the basis for urging Governor Brown to call a special

session of the Legislature last year to deal with the mounting narcotics problem.

THE NEW, tougher program was worked out after Supervisor Hahn secured passage of a motion calling for a complete re-evaluation of the County's narcotics program to insure that the toughest laws possible to enact at the Legislature would be sponsored by the County.

In calling for the Board of Supervisors to approve the new legislative program, Supervisor Hahn pointed out that the Board had previously

gone on record as favoring enactment of the toughest possible laws and had always been united in fighting against the scourge of narcotics.

"WE HAVE three roads we can take—the low road, the middle road, or the high road. We can sit back and do nothing, we can compromise, or we can go forward and fight for what we know is right," he said.

He pointed out that present laws are so soft on narcotics that offenders are in and out of jail on a "revolving door" basis, and that narcotics is responsible either directly or indirectly for 50 per cent of crime in the metropolitan areas.

"IN DOLLARS and cents alone—to say nothing of the tragic waste of lives—narcotics is responsible for a tremendous burden on the taxpayers of California. It costs taxpayers of Los Angeles County at least \$70,000,000 a year in law enforcement costs, operation of the courts, jails and other services related to the apprehension and confinement of narcotics offenders," Supervisor Hahn declared.

Strong support for tough, new laws came from Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, who warned that California was in danger of being invaded by organized crime unless immediate steps are taken to control illicit narcotics traffic.

HE POINTED out that while County unincorporated population has increased 90 per cent over the past 12 years, narcotics offenses have shot up 669 per cent over the same period.

Fighting narcotics under present laws is "like trying to fight a forest fire with a wet burlap sack," the Sheriff declared. County Counsel Kennedy pointed out that Ohio and Michigan had virtually stamped out their narcotics problems through enacting strong narcotics laws.

SUPERVISOR Hahn explained that the purpose of the strong new anti-narcotics laws was to protect the public by taking the narcotics addicts and peddlers off the streets by imposing mandatory, severe penalties — penalties severe enough to take the profit out of the illegal sale of dope. He pointed out that the present laws are so weak and so ineffectual that during the past year alone, narcotics offenses have increased 30 per cent. This is because the penalties are little more than token penalties, with the dope pusher being given probation or parole and turned loose on the streets to again ply his filthy trade.

FOR EXAMPLE, the present law provides that a person convicted on a first offense of furnishing heroin to a minor can be freed on parole after serving 20 months of a minimum five year term. For a second offense (under present law), the sentence is 10 years in State prison, but the offender can gain his release after serving three years and four months.

UNDER THE proposed new law, a person convicted of furnishing heroin to a minor would be given a mandatory sentence of 15 years to life for the first offense. Parole could not be granted until 15 years had been served. For the second offense, the penalty would be 20 years to life, with no parole until 20 years had actually been served in State prison.

"The strong, mandatory sentences provided in the County's new legislative program will take the profit out of narcotics by making the risks too great for dope peddlers and pushers to operate in California. The Board of Supervisors, in approving this legislative program, has taken a major step forward in stamping out narcotics and in reducing crime," Supervisor Hahn declared.

*The Old Timer*  
"The trouble with telling a good story is that it reminds the other guy of a dull one."

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